

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5**

**DATE:** December 8, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Reports of Significant Developments and Activities  
Ending on December 5, 2006

**FROM:** Richard C. Karl, Director  
Superfund Division

**TO:** Mary A. Gade  
Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur  
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, training/conferences, and stakeholder feedback:

**SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

**Emergency Response, Mercury Spill, Shelby, Ohio**

On October 31, 2006, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Brian Kelly responded to a mercury spill in Shelby, Ohio. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) requested U.S. EPA assistance after a resident ingested elemental mercury and spilled it throughout a small apartment. Ohio EPA and the Shelby Health Commissioner were concerned about a pregnant female living at the residence, as well as for the threat that the mercury could be spread outdoors. After consulting with the Ohio Department of Health and the Shelby Health Department, U.S. EPA removed the elemental mercury and decontaminated the apartment.

Contact: Brian Kelly (734-692-7684)

**Emergency Response, Sunoco Service Station Fuel Spill, Luna Pier, Michigan**

On November 17, 2006, U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) James Justice responded to an National Response Center (NRC) Report concerning a fuel release to Lake Erie in Luna Pier, Michigan. The Luna Pier Department of Public Works traced the source of the fuel to a storm sewer located at a Sunoco Service Station. The City shutdown the service station due to the hazards posed by the continuous release of fuel

until the source could be identified and stopped. The OSC issued a Notice of Federal Interest to the Sunoco Station owner and instructed the owner to hire a cleanup contractor to begin collection of free product in the storm sewer, prevent any additional migration of product into the storm sewer, and begin line testing to identify the source of the release. Based on the Area Contingency Plan, the area falls within United States Coast Guard (USCG) zone, and USCG assumed the role of Federal OSC upon their arrival.

U.S. EPA continues to provide technical assistance to USCG, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), and the City of Luna Pier.

Contact: James Justice (734-692-7687)

### **Removal Action Completed, Abex/Amsco Site, Chicago Heights, Illinois**

On November 30, 2006, the U.S. EPA Superfund Division completed a time-critical removal action at the Abex/Amsco site located in Chicago Heights, Illinois. A foundry operated on the site as early as 1911 until the 1980's. In 1983, a sizable portion of the plant was razed. During the demolition activities it is believed that a pole with a bank of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) transformers was knocked down and broken open. The PCB oil was spilled and tracked across the site.

At the request of the City of Chicago Heights, the U.S. EPA conducted a site assessment in March and May of 2006. U.S. EPA sampling results confirmed the presence of PCBs in soils at up to 4,700 milligrams per kilogram. Based on the assessment results, it was determined that a removal action was necessary to protect human health and the environment. The action was initiated on September 25, 2006. Over 1,800 tons of non-hazardous and 3,300 tons of hazardous PCB contaminated soil was excavated and shipped off-site for disposal.

Contact: Mike Ribordy (312-886-4592)

### **Update Meeting, Calumet Container Site, Hammond, Indiana**

On November 16, 2006, the Citizen's Advisory for the Remediation of the Environment (C.A.R.E.) Committee was updated about the U.S. EPA's cleanup and native prairie restoration of the Calumet Container site in Hammond, Indiana. Members met at the Gibson Woods Nature Preserve and then went to the library at Purdue Calumet College to hear about the history of the site, the three removal actions, and the community-based plan for ecological reuse. Three types of native prairie seeds along with 1,200 wetland plugs, 44 trees, and 44 shrubs were planted to revegetate this 7.7-acre site located along the Illinois/Indiana border not far from Powderhorn Lake. Trees and shrub groupings will provide habitat patches for wildlife viewing. Educational

opportunities for school groups, local residents, and tourists are available. Interpretive signage with key site features are planned along with informational brochures. This project demonstrates the benefits of community involvement, a collaborative approach by public and private entities, and support from governmental agencies.

Contacts: Thomas Bloom (312-886-1967)  
Verneta Simon (312-886-3601)

**Groundwater Pump Inspection Meeting, Wausau Groundwater Superfund Site, Wausau, Wisconsin**

An inspection meeting was held on December 5, 2006, at the Wausau Groundwater Superfund Site in Wausau, Wisconsin. The purpose of the meeting was to inspect and discuss a replacement meter and upcoming redevelopment work on the 800 gallon per minute (gpm) extraction pumping well at the Site. The U.S. EPA and Wisconsin State project managers were present, along with representatives from the City of Wausau, the private party group and their contractor. Redevelopment and acid treatment of the extraction well is scheduled to occur in January 2007.

The Wausau Site remedial action is being implemented under 1988 and 1989 Record of Decisions (RODs), and two corresponding Responsible Party Lead Consent Decrees. A groundwater pump & treatment system currently operates at an average rate of about 800 gpm, and two city municipal wells receive air stripping treatment at the City of Wausau municipal facilities. The soil portion of the Site remedy has been completed.

Contact: Jeff Gore (312-886-6552)

**OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS**

**Exhibit of Posters, Recognizing Excellence in Brownfields Redevelopment, Chicago, Illinois**

During the month of December 2006, the Brownfields and National Priorities List (NPL) Reuse Section is displaying posters on Brownfields redevelopment in the lobby of the Adamkus Environmental Resource Center, 12th floor, Metcalfe Building, Chicago, Illinois. These posters will highlight outstanding work in Region 5 plus the Community Impact Winner of the 2006 National Phoenix Award. Each year Region 5 selects Cooperative Agreement recipients making exceptional contributions to Brownfields redevelopment through its Brownfields Recognition Program. Posters and the photos

will be provided to the recognized community in early January 2007. This Recognition

Program has evolved over time and has become a valuable outreach tool.

Contact: Donna Braden (312-353-7712)

## **TRAINING/CONFERENCES**

### **Systems Analysis of Spill Response Workshop, United States Coast Guard, Rosemont, Illinois**

On November 14 and 15, 2006, United States Coast Guard (USCG) gathered spill response experts from both government and industry to discuss oil and hazmat (hazardous materials) response in an effort to identify leverage points where Research and Development (R&D) investment would result in significant change. The experts were asked to validate a model of the response system that USCG developed, identify gaps in capabilities, and provide input on how USCG might best invest resources to close those gaps. The results of the analysis will provide the basis for the USCG's R&D strategic plan for spill response. The Chicago workshop focused on response in the freshwater environments of the Great Lakes and rivers.

Contacts: Jon Gulch (734-692-7686)  
 Josie Clark (312-886-0130)

### **Presentations and Tour, Wayne State University Limnology Class, Grosse Ile, Michigan**

On November 17, 2006, the Director of the Environmental Science Program at Wayne State University and his limnology class visited the Grosse Ile, Michigan, office. Jason El-Zein, Chief Response Section 1, gave the class a presentation on the Superfund and the Emergency Response Program. Dr. Russ Kreis, Director of Grosse Ile Large Lakes Research Station, also provided a presentation on the core missions of his office, including a general overview of the station history. In addition, the class toured the mercury analysis and trace metals labs.

Contact: Jason El-Zein (734-692-7661)

### **SPCC Presentation, University of Minnesota, Minnesota**

Phillip Wicklein, Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) inspector, presented a one-hour 40 CFR 112 SPCC talk to a Minnesota University System audience of 40 people. The conference was held to educate those individuals at the various schools of the University of Minnesota System that are responsible for Health and Safety. The SPCC presentation was to introduce the audience to the SPCC plan

requirements and spill response. Questions included how to select a professional engineer to prepare a plan and a firm to implement a cleanup and what are the resources available to the various school health and safety (H&S) personnel to develop and implement an SPCC plan. Additional conference subjects included how individual H&S personnel might develop plans to use during an emergency on campus and how to implement the plans.

Contact: Phil Wicklein (312-886-0185)

### **Mercury Spill Response Workshop, Washtenaw County, Ann Arbor, Michigan**

On November 28, 2006, U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) Mark Durno and Jeff Kimble assisted with the development and instruction of a workshop on response to mercury releases. The workshop was sponsored by Washtenaw County officials and was held at the Washtenaw Intermediate School District training building in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

U.S. EPA's presentation was on how to conduct cleanups of small and large mercury spills and described common and unusual cleanup techniques. Other presenters included County health officials, a representative from the Poison Control Center, and a representative from the Michigan Department of Community Health. Approximately 50 people were in attendance.

Contacts: Mark Durno (440-250-1743)  
Jeff Kimble (734-692-7688)

### **Spills of National Significance (SONS 07) Meeting, Upper Mississippi Venue, St. Louis, Missouri**

A SONS Initial Planning Conference for the Upper Mississippi River Venue was held in St. Louis, Missouri, on November 29, 2006. In attendance from U.S. EPA Region 5 were Sheila Calovich, Barbi Lee, and Alex Tzallas. The objectives of this meeting were to discuss venue specific objectives, identify exercise participants, scenario development for the venue, list of potential exercise controllers and evaluators, and exercise venue locations. U.S. EPA Region 5 submitted their objectives and time line activities. There will be a Mid Planning Conference for this venue on January 18, 2007, in St. Louis, Missouri.

Contact: Sheila Calovich (312-353-1505)

### **Spills of National Significance (SONS 07) Meeting, Conoco Phillips Venue,**

### **Roxana, Illinois**

On November 30, 2006, there was a meeting with Conoco Phillips personnel regarding SONS 07 exercise. Sheila Calovich, Barbi Lee, Alex Tzallas and Kevin Turner were in attendance at this meeting that took place at the Conoco Phillips refinery in Roxana, Illinois. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss how U.S. EPA Region 5 and Conoco Phillips will conduct exercise play with each other during SONS 07. The main topic of discussion was the desire of Conoco Phillips to have a U.S. EPA Region 5 On-Scene Coordinator participate at their Incident Command Post during the exercise. Conoco Phillips also discussed their exercise scenario with U.S. EPA representatives.

Contact: Barbi Lee (312-886-5296)

### **Spill of National Significance (SONS) Sector Ohio Valley Initial Planning Conference, Paducah, Kentucky**

On November 13, 2006, Sheila Calovich (OPRS) attended a SONS Initial Planning Conference for Sector Ohio Valley in Paducah, Kentucky. Ms. Calovich attended the meeting on behalf of U.S. EPA Region 4. The meeting included representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Sector Ohio Valley, Kentucky Emergency Management, Kentucky Health Department and the Red Cross. This Initial Planning Conference was in preparation for the SONS exercise scheduled for June 2007. Kentucky representatives presented their exercise objectives and possible exercise venues. USCG discussed the extent of their exercise play.

Contact: Sheila Calovich (312-353-1505)

## **STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK**

### **Thank You Letter (Brian Kelly), Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Southeast Michigan District Office**

U.S. EPA received a thank you letter for On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Brian Kelly from Tracy Kecskemeti of the Department of Environmental Quality, Southeast Michigan District Office. It states: "I would like to thank you again for taking the time to speak to Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Water Bureau (WB) staff regarding emergency response. Your presentation was extremely informative and interesting and many staff has expressed to me how much they appreciated the information you shared. In addition to the technical information, the session also provided a good opportunity to reinforce the partnership between the MDEQ and U.S. EPA. Please convey our gratitude to your colleagues with the United States Coast

Guard, Atlantic Strike Team and Weston Solutions. I look forward to working with you in the future. Thank you again for your time."

Contact: Jason El-Zein (734-692-7661)

**Thank You Letter (James Justice), Career Tech Partners, Career Exploration Event, Annapolis High School, Dearborn Heights, Illinois**

U.S. EPA received a thank you letter for On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) James Justice, Michelle Jaster, and Brian Schlieger from Tobi Shingleton, Program Coordinator for Career Tech Partners. It states in part: "Thank you so much for attending this year's "Create Tomorrows Plan" career exploration event that was held at Annapolis High School in Dearborn Heights. We heard from students, parents and presenters that this was a great way to offer a career event. We had several hundred students attend from three high schools that received information that will help them when they plan their futures. On behalf of the entire committee, I wanted to extend a special thank you. I realize everyone is busy and to put the time and effort into our evening event meant so much to all of us."

Contact: Jason El-Zein (734-692-7661)

**Thank You Letter (Jon Gulch), Department of Public Utilities, Toledo, Ohio**

U.S. EPA received a thank you letter for On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Jon Gulch from Joel Mazur of the Department of Public Utilities, City of Toledo, Ohio. It states: "The City of Toledo would like to thank you for being a presenter at the Hazardous Waste Operations & Emergency Response 8-hour Refresher at Owens Community College on October 26, 2006. The program was a success thanks to your participation and we appreciate the time and effort that you put forth."

Contact: Jason El-Zein (734-692-7661)

cc: Susan Bodine (OSWER)  
 Scott Sherman (OSWER)  
 Barry Breen (OSWER)  
 Ed Chu (OSWER)  
 David Lopez (OSRTI)  
 Ernie Watkins (OSRTI)  
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